

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2012-273-S - ORDER NO. 2014-3
JANUARY 14, 2014

IN RE:	Application of Palmetto of Richland County, LLC for a Certificate That the Acquisition of the City of Columbia Sewer Collection System Serving Portions of Unincorporated Richland County is in the Public Interest and for Establishment of a Service Area and Rates and Charges)	ORDER WAIVING REGULATION 103-535.1 AND GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME TO DISCONNECT CERTAIN WASTEWATER CUSTOMERS
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of Palmetto of Richland County, LLC (“PRC” or the “Company”) for a waiver of Commission Regulation 103-535.1 and for an extension of time to disconnect certain wastewater customers with past due notifications. On June 6, 2012, PRC purchased a portion of the City of Columbia’s sewer collection system serving 11,370 customers in certain unincorporated areas of Richland County. Subsequently, a significant number of customer accounts became past due.

Notwithstanding its provision of notice about the transition in wastewater providers, PRC recognized that some of the delinquent customers may have incorrectly believed the City continued to provide their wastewater service and no charges were owed to PRC. Although multiple notices were sent, a large number of customers continue to have past due accounts with PRC and are subject to having their sewer service interrupted in accordance with Commission Regulation 103-535.1.

Regulation 103-535.1 provides that service may be disconnected after 10 days following a second notice. However, PRC submits that more time would be reasonable because it would provide these customers with one final opportunity to remit payment to PRC and may reduce the number of customers ultimately subjected to service disconnections. The Office of Regulatory Staff does not object to PRC's proposal.

We agree with PRC, and under the authority of 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-101(2), waive Commission Regulation 103-535.1, thereby granting the above mentioned customers more time to become current on their bill before having their service disconnected.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikiya Hall, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)